The Principles of Discourse at Hampshire College
--from a speech by President Gregory S. Prince, Hampshire College Convocation, 1990.

(1) That we value truth and the process of seeking truth as ends in themselves;

(2) That we accept responsibility to articulate a position as close to the truth as one can make it, using to the best of one's ability, available evidence, and the rules of reason, logic and relevance;

(3) That we listen openly, recognizing always that new information may alter one's position;

(4) That we welcome evaluation and accept and even encourage disagreement and criticism even to the point of seeking out for ourselves that which will dispower our position;

(5) That we refuse to reduce disagreement to personal attacks or attacks on groups or classes of individuals;

(6) That we value civility, even in disagreement;

(7) That we reject the premise that the ends, no matter how worthy, can justify means which violate these principles.